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Montserrat

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

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I. General

1. Montserrat[1] is situated in the Leeward Islands in the eastern Caribbean, 43 kilometres south-west of Antigua and 64 kilometres north-west of the French Overseas Department of Guadeloupe. The island is 18 kilometres long and 11 kilometres wide and covers an area of 103 square kilometres, all of which is volcanic and mountainous. Its coastline is rugged and has no all-weather harbour.[2]

2. In July 1995, the Montsoufriere volcano, dormant for more than 400 years, erupted and caused the evacuation of more than one third of Montserrat's population from the southern part of the island to its northern "safe" areas in August 1995. Montserrat's capital, Plymouth, was abandoned after the increase in volcanic activity in 1996.[2] The temporary capital is now located in Brades and a new capital is being planned in Little Bay, which is situated on the north-east coast of the island.[3]

3. The population of Montserrat, which in 1995 was 10,581, was estimated to be 3,500 in February 1998 by the Chief Minister of Montserrat; the administering Power estimated the Territory's population at that time at 2,800.[4] As of August 1999, the population was estimated to be just over 4,600. English is the only language in use by the entire population. The principal religion is Christianity, and the main denominations are Anglican, Roman Catholic and Methodist.

4. As of May 1999, the Territory, in conjunction with the administering Power, has a comprehensive programme in place for the reconstruction of the Montserrat economy.[5] The Sustainable Development Plan, which includes policies aimed at helping Montserrat go from a state of crisis to development, is to be put in place by 2002.[6]

II. Historical background

5. Montserrat, sometimes called the Emerald Island, was named after a Spanish monastery by Christopher Columbus on his second trip to the island in 1493. In 1632, the island became a British Colony, and its first settlers came mainly from Ireland. Slaves, who worked the cotton, sugar and tobacco plantations, were unsuccessful in an uprising in 1768.[7] Although Montserrat was occupied by France for brief periods of time, it returned definitively to British rule in 1783. Montserrat became a British Crown Colony in 1871.

III. Constitutional background

6. According to information received from the administering Power, Montserrat is an internally self-governing Overseas Territory (formerly a Dependent Territory) of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Territory is administered by the United Kingdom under the Montserrat Constitution Order of 1989, which came into force in 1990. The Constitution provides for a Governor appointed by the Queen; an Executive Council comprising the Governor as President, the Chief Minister, three ministers and two ex officio members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary); and a Legislative Council, comprising a Speaker, two ex officio members (the Attorney General and the Financial Secretary), seven elected members returned from single-member constituencies on the basis of universal adult suffrage, and two nominated members. Elections are held every five years on the basis of universal adult suffrage. The next elections are due to be held in 2001.

7. Ministerial responsibilities cover all areas of government business, with the exception of external affairs, internal security, defence, the public service and offshore financial services — areas for which the Governor is responsible. During the Governor's absence, the Speaker of the Legislative Council acts as Governor.

8. The law of the Territory is English common law together with locally enacted legislation. It is administered by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. The Royal Montserrat Police Force, headed by a British Commissioner together with his staff officer (a senior Superintendent), is funded by the Technical Cooperation Programme. The force is made up of 51 people, of whom only 60 per cent are Montserratian.[2]

IV. Political developments

9. The current Governor of Montserrat, Anthony Abbot, was sworn in on 17 September 1997; David Brandt has been Chief Minister of Montserrat since August 1997.

10. Montserrat's political party system is not very stable. The main political parties are the Movement for National Reconstruction, the People's Progressive Alliance and the National Progressive Party. During the most recent election, in 1996, in the midst of the chaos resulting from the volcanic activity, voter participation was very low and none of the parties won a majority.

11. A new electoral system has been proposed. A commission will be created to determine the voting procedures for the elections to be held in October 2001. Because the majority of the constituencies on the island are currently uninhabitable following the eruption of the Montsoufriere volcano, nine at-large members are to be elected in two rounds of voting. The new Assembly, however, will not include any nominated members. One of the most important issues for the new election will be the question of a qualifying pre-poll residence period. The amount of residence time which has been suggested is three weeks, which would make it possible for Montserratians who live abroad to return home and vote. [8]

12. In March 1999, the Government of the United Kingdom had issued a White Paper on the relationship between the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories, entitled "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories". The paper is contained in the annex to document A/AC.109/1999/1 and its key recommendations are outlined in A/AC.109/1999/15 (para. 38), the most recent Secretariat working paper on Montserrat.

13. In April 2000, in a speech given by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the administering Power stressed the theme of partnership based on four fundamental principles, reiterated its commitment to maintaining the right of self-determination and stated: "Where independence is an option and if it were to be asked for, we would not stand in any Territory's way. Neither do we have any hidden agenda to force any Territory to go down the independence route."[9]

V. Status of the Montsoufriere volcano

14. In July 1998, the administering Power commissioned the Montserrat Volcano Observatory to evaluate the status of the Montsoufriere volcano. The evaluation was presented and discussed at a meeting held from 24 to 26 February 1999 and a report entitled "Scientific and Hazards Assessment of the Montsoufriere Volcano" was released on 12 March 1999. In the report it was noted that when the magmatic eruption ended in March 1998, there were no signs that there would be any further eruptions in the near future. The report also described the residual activity during 1998 as being linked to the continued release and ascent of volcanic gases from the source of magma located deeper in the earth. This type of activity was cited as being common in volcanoes where eruption was coming to an end. Although the activity was expected to diminish over time, it was still expected to pose hazards in the southern part of the island. The meeting also reconsidered the probability of no eruptions occurring in the upcoming months, and in July 1998, assessed this probability at 95 per cent.

15. Although in 1998 scientists had believed that the probability of the Montsoufriere volcano erupting again within the next five years was only 15 per cent, and 25 per cent within 10 to 30 years, the volcano erupted again in November 1999 and yet again in March 2000. Reportedly no one was injured in the latest eruptions. The March eruption collapsed the dome that had been growing since the last eruption in November and caused pyroclastic flows, volcanic explosions and mudflows. The ash-fall covered the entire island and extended to Guadeloupe and Antigua.

16. This new threat came just as the islanders were rebuilding. The Governor of the Territory termed the eruption very demoralizing and expressed concern that the new growth in the volcano would drive away the "resilient" people who had put up with the volcano for years.[10]

VI. Economic conditions

17. Hurricane damage and volcanic activity have combined to seriously undermine Montserrat's economic development and have implications for its future planning.

A. Public finance

18. During the 1999 budget presentation, the Chief Minister had summarized the continuing impact of the 1995 and 1997 eruptions of the Montsoufriere volcano.[5] Since then, the Montserrat economy has

continued to be characterized by reduced economic activity of the private sector, which has resulted in further reductions in government revenues. Revenue in 1998 continued to decline.

19. According to a government press release, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) agreed to restructure Montserrat's debt. CDB is the principal creditor of the Government of Montserrat, representing approximately 70 per cent of the Government's annual debt service. The agreement between CDB and the territorial Government provides for moratoriums of varying length on the principal and/or interest of 7 of the 12 loans held by the Bank.[11]

20. In 1999, recurrent expenditure was projected at EC$ 56.9 million and locally raised recurrent revenue to be EC$ 22.8 million. The administering Power had offered budgetary aid in the amount of approximately EC$ 34 million to finance this gap.[5]

21. In the second quarter of 1999, the central Government's fiscal operations improved, in comparison to the same quarter in 1998. The current account deficit decreased from EC$ 8.8 million to EC$ 7.3 million, which can be attributed to the 11.3 per cent increase in the current revenue and to a 6.3 per cent reduction in current expenditures. The money supply increased, largely as a result of growth in net foreign assets; liquidity in the commercial banking system improved; and interest rates remained unchanged. The inflation rate increased from 0.5 per cent in the previous quarter to 0.6 per cent. Price increases were recorded in alcohol and tobacco; gas, electricity, and water; and household goods. However, there was a decrease in the prices for services and clothing.

22. The increase in current revenue can be attributed to the 12.8 per cent increase in tax revenue, which is largely attributable to the 24 per cent increase in the yield from taxes on international trade and transactions, mainly from import duties, consumption taxes and customs service charges. Also, income from taxes on income and profits increased by 8.1 per cent although the revenue from personal taxes decreased. Income from taxes on domestic goods and services decreased by 10.6 per cent, most likely owing to the reduced revenue from licences and hotel occupancy taxes. Non-tax revenue also decreased from 0.4 per cent to 0.3 per cent.[12]

B. Banking and finance

23. Liquidity in the commercial banks of Montserrat was relatively high as of the second quarter of 1999.

24. Net foreign assets of the banking system increased only by 10.0 per cent, in comparison to 18.9 per cent in 1998. Net foreign assets of the commercial banks, however, increased by 85.6 per cent, which demonstrates the large amounts of money held in institutions outside Montserrat.[12]

C. Tourism

25. The negative impact of reduced visitor arrivals and spending on the economy has been significant. As of June 1999, prospects for the tourism industry were not very bright, despite Montserrat's attempts to stay involved in international and regional tourism promotions. Specific efforts in this regard include the opening of the Vue Pointe Hotel in the first half of 2000 and the completion of a new 18-room hotel in the northern part of the island designed mainly for business visitors. Ferry and helicopter services to Antigua are also currently being provided.

D. Economic activity, population and employment

26. The increase in economic activity in 1998 was mainly attributable to public investment in infrastructure, although private home-building and commercial building activity also played a role, once insurance coverage was re-established on Montserrat in these areas. In 1998, there were approximately 290 building starts, with an estimated completion value of EC$ 33.7 million. Of these, more than 140 were government-funded housing units (EC$ 17 million).

27. At the end of the second quarter of 1999, economic activity was at a low level, owing to the damaging effects of volcanic activity. Domestic credit was -9.9 per cent in comparison to -6.4 per cent in the previous quarter, primarily as a result of the decrease in lending to the private sector. The amount of credit given to economic sectors such as construction and agriculture also declined substantially. Credit to construction fell by 33.1 per cent and credit to agriculture sector fell by 28.0 per cent. However, loans

granted for personal purposes remained at almost the same at level EC$ 17.3 million.

28. In June 1997, the Territory's population had been estimated at 7,500. By August 1997, the population had further declined to 5,800, as additional residents relocated after volcanic eruptions in June and July.[13] The population of the island declined still further, owing to growing danger of volcanic activity. In August 1999, it was estimated at slightly more than 4,600. According to press reports, the administering Power has announced that it will underwrite the airfare of Montserratians who wish to return from abroad.[14]

29. Unemployment stood at 7.7 per cent at the end of 1997 and 5 per cent in March 1998. According to the Montserrat Social Survey the labour force had shrunk to 1,517 workers, with the Government as the largest employer on the island, with 33.1 per cent of the workforce. Construction accounted for almost 14 per cent, health and social work 10.7 per cent, and wholesale and retail 8.7 per cent.[15] Inflation remained relatively high at approximately 5 per cent, and was attributed largely to increases in building rents.[16]

30. As a direct result of the volcano emergency, exports in 1998 declined to EC$ 3.4 million, compared with EC$ 22 million in 1997, before the closing of the rice mill and the electronic components factory, which had been major producers of export earnings in the previous years. Imports dropped from EC$ 80 million in 1997 to EC$ 72 million in 1998; this decrease in part reflects the decrease in population from early 1997.

E. Agriculture

31. In 1997, heavy emphasis was placed on acquiring, preparing and bringing into production as much suitable land as possible. The area of land under agricultural production by the end of 1997 was in excess of 16 hectares (40 acres). About half of this was located in a government project at Brades devoted almost exclusively to vegetable production, with the aim of reducing the level of food imports. By October 1998, the area under cultivation had increased to 24 hectares (60 acres).[17] The Ministry of Agriculture has prepared a number of plans to assist farms in those areas, and there has been some assistance provided by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute.

32. Although data on agricultural output since June 1999 were not available, preliminary reports have indicated that the production of vegetables for the domestic market has increased, as evidenced by the decline in issuance of import licences for crops produced locally.[18]

F. Sustainable Development Plan and Country Policy Plan

33. In the face of the economic disruptions caused by the ongoing volcano crisis, the Government of Montserrat and the administering Power have signed a comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan and a Country Policy Plan, establishing the framework and direction of development in Montserrat until 2002. In 1999, these plans called for:

(a) Provision of further serviced plots for housing development;

(b) Reorientation of water storage and reticulation systems to supply new customers in the north of the island;

(c) Commencement of withdrawal from services previously provided by the private sector;

(d) Overhaul of fiscal and pricing policies and introduction of strategies to simplify and strengthen collection techniques;

(e) Programmes for potential privatization, contracting out and private finance initiatives in operation;

(f) Establishment of internationally competitive clear and non-discretionary inward investment legislation;

(g) Access to health services improved through a strengthened district level delivery system with an emphasis on primary and preventative care;

(h) Improvements in the provision of nursery, primary and secondary facilities.[19]

VII. Social conditions

A. Education

34. In 1998, there were four government primary schools in operation in the designated safe zone,

accommodating children from the non-evacuated as well as the evacuated areas. There are two private primary schools, one private secondary school and one amalgamated government secondary school with three campuses.[20]

B. Housing and infrastructure development

35. In 1999, the territorial Government intended to assist 340 families to build homes through both "direct-build" and "self-build" schemes, including material grant assistance and a concessionary mortgage scheme. In support of this project, the Government planned to draw down its reserves by EC$ 1.5 million in order to help finance additional self-build housing. The Ministry of Housing and the Land Development Authority of Montserrat identified 808 families still requiring housing.

36. As of January 2000, only 150 people were housed in emergency accommodations, which had been built as a direct result of the volcano eruption. In addition, recently enacted social welfare legislation comprising a means-related benefit system has replaced the previous system of monthly payments to those people who had been forced to evacuate the southern part of the island.

37. The rehabilitation of the electricity, water supply and road network systems is expected to be complete in the Isles Bay area of central Montserrat by mid-2000. These projects have been undertaken with financial assistance from the United Kingdom.[21]

38. Feasibility studies are being conducted for the construction of a new port and airport[3] as well as a cricket stadium for the World Cup in 2007.[22]

C. Health

39. According to press reports, community health clinics, providing free services for Montserratians are in operation in the safe zone at three locations: St. Peter's, Cudjoe Head and St. John's. In addition, there are two private medical practitioners and one private dental practitioner on the island. [23]

40. In 1998, a new block was added to the hospital facilities in the designated safe zone, including two patient wards, isolation rooms and a maternity ward. A wing containing a pharmacy, laboratory and administrative offices will be completed in mid-1999.[5]

41. According to the evaluation presented and discussed at a meeting at Montserrat Volcano Observatory from 24 to 26 February 1999, air quality continues to be adversely affected by volcanic ash. Recent evaluations of ash in Salem and Old Towne show that the composition of the ash is dominated by a fine, respirable fraction containing 15 to 25 per cent cristobalite, which can cause the respiratory illness silicosis.[24]

D. Community

42. Of ongoing concern is the disruption of social ties and communities as a result of the volcanic crisis. According to the Montserrat Sustainable Development Plan, completed in November 1998:

> "Prior to the volcanic activity, social welfare in Montserrat was achieved through a combination of publicly financed initiatives and non-State activities. Strong community and family relationships were the basis of a support and assistance network, which combined effectively with limited targeted public assistance for the most vulnerable. Education and certain health services were provided free at the point of delivery for all Montserratians ...
>
> "The policy approach, objectives and targeting of the pre-volcano system have been distorted by measures introduced to cope with emergency conditions, in particular with respect to housing and income, as individuals and families have lost their homes and livelihoods. The associated break-up of families and communities has also meant that individuals are now much more dependent upon the State than in previous times.
>
> "A key theme to emerge during the preparation of the Sustainable Development Plan was the desire by individuals to continue to have access to support mechanisms from the State during the period of crisis and redevelopment. ... The Social Welfare Review (commenced in September 1998) stresses the fact that a more targeted system can be developed quickly and that a combination of government provision for the most needy, the re-establishment of

independence and encouragement of community responses to welfare needs is the best way forward."[17]

E. Human rights

43. In a report submitted to the United Nations Committee against Torture under article 19 of the Convention against Torture on 1 April 1998, the administering Power made the following statements with respect to Montserrat:

> "Since the submission and examination of the second periodic report under the Convention in respect of Montserrat, the life of the population of the Territory has been dramatically affected — indeed catastrophically disrupted — by the eruption of the Montsoufriere volcano ...
>
> "Despite this situation, the Government and people of Montserrat remain firmly committed to the principles of the Convention and the Government of the Territory will continue at all times to seek to ensure that the requirements of the Convention are as scrupulously observed as circumstances permit ... There have been no relevant changes in the law since the previous reports and, certainly, there have been no alleged incidents of torture or of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. As previously reported, judicial corporal punishment was abolished in Montserrat as far back as 1991.
>
> "Nevertheless, the physical and economic difficulties under which Montserrat is now labouring have, in one field that is relevant to the Convention, necessitated the adoption of arrangements that it is acknowledged are unsatisfactory but that cannot immediately be ameliorated. As explained above, with the destruction of Plymouth Montserrat also suffered the destruction of its prison. Since then, largely ad hoc arrangements have had to be made for the accommodation of prisoners."[25]

44. According to press reports, there are currently facilities to house prisoners for short periods of time. The majority of prisoners with longer sentences are sent to other Overseas Territories administered by the United Kingdom; prisoners rarely serve their time in the United Kingdom.[26]

VIII. United Kingdom development assistance

45. In paragraph 7.10 of its White Paper (see para. 12), the administering Power summarized its aid to Montserrat as follows:

> "We have committed 75 million pounds sterling to Montserrat for the three-year period 1998/99-2000/01. This is additional to the £59 million spent in the three years since the volcanic crisis started in 1995. Our support finances budgetary aid and the rebuilding of the north of the island where the remaining population live (4,500). We are also providing support for evacuees in the Caribbean region and have financed passages for evacuees to the Caribbean, the United Kingdom and North America. The costs of supporting evacuees once they arrive in Britain are met by the relevant Home Departments. We agreed with the Government of Montserrat in November 1998 on a Sustainable Development Plan setting out broad policies needed for economic and social recovery of the island. This formed the basis of the joint Country Policy Plan agreed in January 1999, which includes an indicative investment programme for the period to March 2001."[2]

46. Assistance included provision of infrastructure and housing, a hospital, schools, a ferry and helicopter service, assistance to small-scale private sector companies and expertise to assist the Government over a wide range of public service activities.[2]

47. In March 2000, the United Kingdom announced that it would donate a naval patrol boat to the Montserrat police to help fight drug trafficking in the Caribbean.[27] The United Kingdom Government will also contribute EC$ 160,000 towards the construction of a cultural centre in the northern part of the island.[27]

IX. Assistance provided by the United Nations and other international organizations

48. United Nations assistance to Montserrat is provided mainly through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which maintains programmes of technical cooperation with five Non-

Self-Governing Territories of the Caribbean, including Montserrat.

49. After the first volcanic eruptions in 1995, UNDP provided emergency resources of US$ 165,000 for emergency shelter and housing efforts. Funding for these efforts came from the UNDP Special Programme Resources and TRAC 1.1.3 emergency programme. That money has been used as part of the funding for the CARICOM Village, a housing project administered by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). UNDP has also provided technical support to the territorial Government in civil engineering, environmental planning, disaster management and preparedness, building management, and architectural services. (For more detailed information about the country cooperation framework, see UNDP document DP/CCF/MOT/1.) Support for the Government's sustainable development strategy will be the ongoing focus of UNDP efforts in the Territory.[28]

50. On 26 January 1999, the Executive Board of UNDP and of the United Nations Population Fund authorized the Administrator to shift support of programmes in Montserrat to a case-by-case basis, as requested by the territorial Government. The decision had been reached after a review of the current situation in the Territory.[29]

51. The two main focuses of a newly approved UNDP project in 1999 were: (a) support for vulnerability mapping and strengthening of national disaster management; and (b) preparedness plans. The project is being funded both by the Governments of Montserrat and the United Kingdom.

52. UNDP has been unable to reverse the Executive Board's conferral of net contributor country (NCC) status on Montserrat, owing to the island's high level of per capita gross national product (GNP). It has, however, participated in the review of and provided advice on Montserrat's Sustainable Development Plan and assisted in finalizing the Country Policy Paper together with authorities of the United Kingdom Government.

53. According to press reports, the European Union has allocated at least ecu 16 million to Montserrat, of which ecu 8 million is to be used for airport reconstruction and the rest for poverty-alleviation programmes, such as home-building projects.[30]

X. Participation in regional organizations and arrangements

54. The Territory continues to be a member of CARICOM and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), as well as the institutions associated with both groups, including the University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. Montserrat is an associate member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and its subsidiary bodies. The Territory is represented at the meetings of the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development, sponsored by the World Bank.

XI. Future status of the Territory

A. Position of the territorial Government

55. On 30 March 1999, in presenting the 1999 budget, the Chief Minister of Montserrat acknowledged the publication of the White Paper on relations between the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories, as follows:

> "We feel that this is a welcome opportunity for a full review of the constitutional relationship between the United Kingdom and the colony of Montserrat. Perhaps the time has come for all Montserratians to be given the chance to discuss and determine the nature and the terms of our future constitutional status, and for such an exercise to produce a constitution over which we can claim true ownership and acceptance. Government is therefore considering the appointment of a constitutional commission to undertake the review and to make proposals for constitutional change. These proposals would draw on the work of the Electoral Commission which is presently ongoing, but would naturally adopt a much wider scope and purpose." [31]

56. The Chief Minister of Montserrat expressed his preference for independence within a political union such as the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. He also stated that self-reliance was more important than independence from the United Kingdom.[32]

B. Position of the administering Power

57. The representative of the United Kingdom in addressing the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly on 6 October 1999, stated that her Government had made further progress in its efforts to transform its relationship with its overseas Territories into a fully modern partnership. This was based on four fundamental principles: self-determination; mutual obligations; freedom for the Territories to run their affairs to the greatest degree possible; and a firm commitment from the United Kingdom to help the Territories economically and to assist them in emergencies. Among the measures being taken was the decision to offer British citizenship and the right of abode to those people of the overseas Territories who did not already enjoy it, thus meeting a long-standing request of the peoples of the Territories.[33]

58. She went on to say that the United Kingdom would also continue to support strengthened measures and devote greater resources for sustainable economic development and environmental management and protection in the overseas Territories. The United Kingdom was also prepared to consider any proposals about the future put forward by the peoples of the Territories themselves and reaffirmed that self-determination remained one of the fundamental principles which guided her Government's relationship with the Territories.[34]

C. Consideration by the General Assembly

59. At its 71st plenary meeting, on 6 December 1999, the General Assembly adopted without a vote resolution 54/90 B, section VII, of which concerns Montserrat. In the resolution, the Assembly called upon the administering Power, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system as well as regional and other organizations to continue to provide urgent emergency assistance to the Territory in alleviating consequences of the volcanic eruptions and welcomed the support of the Caribbean Community in the construction of housing in the safe zone to alleviate the shortage caused by the environmental and human crisis of the eruptions of the Montsoufriere volcano, as well as the material and financial support of the international community to help alleviate the suffering caused by the crisis.

Notes

[1] The information contained in the present paper has been derived from published reports and information available on the Internet. The facts and figures presented in the working paper are the latest information available.

[2] "Partnership for Progress and Prosperity: Britain and the Overseas Territories", United Kingdom White Paper, March 1999 (A/AC.109/1999/1, annex).

[3] *The Economist* Intelligence Unit, Country Profile, 1999-2000.

[4] *Trinidad and Tobago; Guyana; Suriname; Netherlands Antilles; Aruba; Windward and Leeward Islands, 1st quarter 1998. The Economist* Intelligence Unit, p.74.

[5] 1999 Montserrat Budget (www.mratgov.com/budget_speech_1999.htm), 30 March 1999; "New Plans for the Development of Montserrat", United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, www.fco.gov.uk, 11 June 1999.

[6] Monserrat Reporter web site, Montserrat Development Unit.

[7] *Tribune Business News*, 29 March 2000.

[8] *The Economist* Intelligence Unit, 28 January 2000.

[9] Baroness Scotland at Wilton Park, 3 April 2000, Overseas Territories: Into the New Millennium Conference. See also paras. 57-58 of the present report.

[10] *Caribbean News Agency NewsEdge Service*, 24 March 2000.

[11] *The Montserrat Reporter*, 30 April 1999.

[12] Eastern and Caribbean Central Bank, *Economic and Financial Review*, vol. 18, No. 2, June 1999.

[13] 1998 Caribbean Basin Profile, p. 313.

[14] *The Montserrat Reporter*, 7 May 1999.

[15] Ibid., 13 March 1998.

[16] *CANA News Agency*, Bridgetown, 25 April 1998.

[17] "Montserrat Social and Economic Recovery Programme — a Path to Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Plan)", November 1998, http://www.mninet.com/devunit/Sustainable Development Plan/index.htm.

[18] Eastern and Caribbean Central Bank, *Economic and Financial Review*, vol. 18, No. 2, June 1990.

[19] *Caribbean News Agency NewsEdge Service*, 24 March 2000.

[20] 1998 Caribbean Basin Profile, p.315.

[21] *The Economist* Intelligence Unit, 28 January 2000.

[22] *Los Angeles Times*, 28 October 1999.

[23] *The Montserrat Reporter*, 7 May 1999.

[24] "Scientific and Hazards Assessment of the Montsoufriere Volcano", Montserrat Volcano Observatory, 12 March 1999.

[25] CAT/C/44/Add.1.

[26] *The Montserrat Reporter*, 26 February 1999.

[27] *Caribbean News Agency NewsEdge Service*, 15 March 2000.

[28] DP/CCF/MOT/1.

[29] DP/1999/12

[30] *The Montserrat Reporter*, 30 April 1999.

[31] 1999 Montserrat Budget (www.mratgov.com/budget_speech_1999.htm), 30 March 1999.

[32] See General Assembly resolution 54/90 B, sect. VII, fifth preambular para.

[33] See A/AC.4/54/SR.5, paras. 91-92.

[34] See A/AC.4/54/SR.5, paras. 92-93.